



File Code: 2210/2230-3

Date: April 30, 2009

Jon and RaNae Wilde
HCR 65 Box 785
McKinnon, WY 82938

Dear Permittee,

This letter references the annual meeting Jon Wilde, Allen Young, and Aaron Zobell had on April 3, 2009, concerning your grazing on the Hickerson Park Allotment. As a follow-up, this letter will serve as your 2009 operating instructions and will become part of your permit as provided for in Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a) of your term grazing permit.

Please note situations may develop during the grazing season which you feel may require changes to these instructions. If you believe this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact Aaron Zobell and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Hickerson Park permittee 2009 operating instructions are as follows:

Hickerson Park Allotment Grazing Season and Dates

| Permittee | Numbers | Non-Use | Season of Use |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|--|
| Jon & RaNae Wilde | 150 | 0 | June 16 th - September 10 th |
| Quarter Circle Three Bar Ranch | 100 | 0 | June 16 th - September 10 th |
| Allen & Nancy Young | 50 | 0 | June 16 th - September 10 th |

| Unit | Sequence | Dates of Use | Allowable Use |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Carter Dugway | 1 st | June 16 – July 7 | 40% |
| Round Park | 2 nd | July 8 – August 5 | 50% |
| Hickerson Park | 3 rd | August 6 – August 31 | 50% |
| Lodgepole | 4 th | Sept. 1 – Sept. 10 | 30% |

Only livestock branded according to the Certificate of Brand Registrations provided by each permittee to the Forest Service will be allowed to graze on the allotment. Confirmation of payment through the “lock box” process must be received before livestock will be allowed to graze on National Forest lands.



Cattle use within the Carter Dugway unit should not exceed 30 percent. Cattle use within the Round Park and Hickerson Park units should not exceed 50% or a stubble height of not less than four inches along the North Fork of Sheep Creek in Hickerson Park. Once the prescribed utilization level is reached in any unit, your cattle will be moved into the next unit. Fall use within the Lodgepole unit should not exceed 30 percent. It will be time to come home once 30% utilization is reached in the Lodgepole unit. The schedule and utilization levels listed above are per the 1995 Vegetation/Habitat Management Plan for the Hickerson Park Allotment. Every effort must be taken to completely remove cattle off the National Forest by the scheduled off date. For example, if it requires three days of riding to gather your cattle, then you should start riding three days prior to your scheduled off date.

Equal utilization of the range is the objective. This requires riding and salting be properly conducted throughout the entire grazing season. Rotate your salting areas during the grazing season and from year to year. Place your salt in good forage producing areas where the cattle do not go by preference. Do not place your salt next to water, roads, trails, or in open meadows. Cattle need to be kept in their appropriate units, properly distributed within those units, and moved from unit to unit as needed. It is especially important cattle be kept in the unit they are supposed to be in and that an even distribution of your cattle be maintained while in an unit, since any area reaching proper utilization means it is time to move into the next scheduled unit or to come home. Each permittee is responsible for keeping cattle spread out and not over utilizing the range.

Maintenance of all your improvements listed in Part 3 of your term grazing permit must be done one week before your cattle enter the allotment and maintenance needs to be completed to the standards listed in your permit. Completing your maintenance responsibilities one week before your on date will allow Aaron time to inspect your improvements and address any concerns before your cattle enter the allotment. All labor and materials needed for maintenance are your responsibility. Any ATV use in the administration of your allotment is limited to existing roads or along fence lines for fence maintenance. Other item(s) discussed during the permittee meeting are as follows:

- ❖ 16 foot gate: Allen & Nancy Young were provided a 16 foot gate last grazing season to install adjacent to the gravel pit between the Hickerson Park and Sheep Creek Park Allotments. This gate must be installed and working correctly before their livestock will be allowed on the allotment this grazing season. Allen or Nancy will need to contact Aaron when this gate has been installed.
- ❖ Utilization levels within the Lodgepole unit continue to be an area of concern. Key areas within the Lodgepole unit including Lodgepole Creek and areas adjacent to Lodgepole Creek should not exceed 30% utilization. Proper distribution while cattle are within the unit, having the John Q Reservoir operational, making sure cattle do not enter the unit before the proposed on date for this unit, and ensuring cattle are removed from the unit by the off date are critical in meeting the utilization standards shown in this AOI and the Vegetation/Habitat Management Plan for the Hickerson Park Allotment.
- ❖ Round Park Unit: Monitoring data from 2008 supported the one week increase in the Round Park unit which was implemented last grazing season with utilization generally being light to moderate at key areas. This increase is desirable on the allotment as a

whole as it will continue to allow either the Carter Creek unit or Lodgepole Creek unit (whichever is grazed last) to be grazed one week less than at historic levels. I anticipate these changes will become permanent should monitoring data continue to support this change.

- ❖ Forest Service Maintenance of Trail #1023: This Forest Service trail was logged out last year. However, further maintenance of these trails may be required to successfully bring livestock on the allotment, move between units, and bring them off of the allotment. I strongly suggest you be ready to do any trail maintenance necessary to ensure this occurs.
- ❖ Carter Dugway/Forest Service boundary fence (#019301): Reconstruction/maintenance needs to occur from Spring Creek to Phil Pico Spring. This fence is not the responsibility of any permittee but rather is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. Should you notice unauthorized use occurring on Forest Service administered lands please contact Aaron. He will take the appropriate action at the point in time to ensure that this unauthorized use ceases.
- ❖ Ashley National Forest/Wasatch-Cache Boundary Fence: Maintenance of this fence is solely the responsibility of permittees' of the Hickerson Park Allotment. Jon and RaNae Wilde are responsible for maintaining the south half of the fence and Quarter Circle Three Bar Ranch and Allen & Nancy Young are responsible for maintaining the north half of the fence.
- ❖ NEPA: The Hickerson Park Allotment is currently under an evaluation to determine its NEPA sufficiency. I anticipate we will update your permit and allotment management plan should the allotment be found NEPA sufficient.
- ❖ Permittees requested the following:
 - Maintenance of the cattleguard (Infra # 001569) on Birch Creek F.S. Road 221 at the forest boundary. The road crew will be contacted and maintenance of this cattle guard should occur sometime this summer.
 - Maintenance of the cattleguard (Infra #10679--1.997) on F.S. Road 10679 adjacent to Sheep Creek Park/Hickerson Park Allotment boundary. The road crew will be contacted and maintenance of this cattle guard should occur sometime this summer.
 - A second cage to be set up adjacent to cage already existing at Lodgepole Creek to monitor use by wildlife. This will occur as discussed.

Please keep track of the dates, numbers and any other facts that may be pertinent to your grazing on the allotment this year and let Aaron know as they occur. Note these items on the Grazing Use Record form attached below and return them to Aaron by the 31st of December.

We also need your help to control noxious weeds. By removing musk thistle seed heads before they flower and then cutting down the plant at its base, the spread of this plant can be controlled. Please let Aaron know of any new noxious weed infestations so we can keep them from becoming established. We are especially concerned about Dyer's Woad and any other "new" weeds.

Thanks for your efforts to manage this allotment. If you have any questions or comments please contact Aaron Zobell at (435) 781-5279.

Sincerely,

ROWDY MUIR
Acting District Ranger

Enclosure
2009 Grazing Use Record

**2009 GRAZING USE RECORD
FLAMING GORGE RANGER DISTRICT**

This form should be completed in detail, signed, and returned immediately following the grazing season to this office. Use back of sheet if necessary.

PERMITTEE _____

ALLOTMENT _____ YEAR _____

ACTUAL USE

| UNIT IN ORDER GRAZED | TOTAL LIVESTOCK NUMBERS | DATE ENTERED | DATE LEFT | DATE <u>ALL</u> LIVESTOCK REMOVED FROM UNIT | NOTES |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|-------|
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NOXIOUS WEEDS

| SPECIES | LOCATION | OTHER |
|---------|----------|-------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

OTHER

Improvements maintained and/or visited

Improvements in need of repair

NOTES

SIGNATURE

DATE